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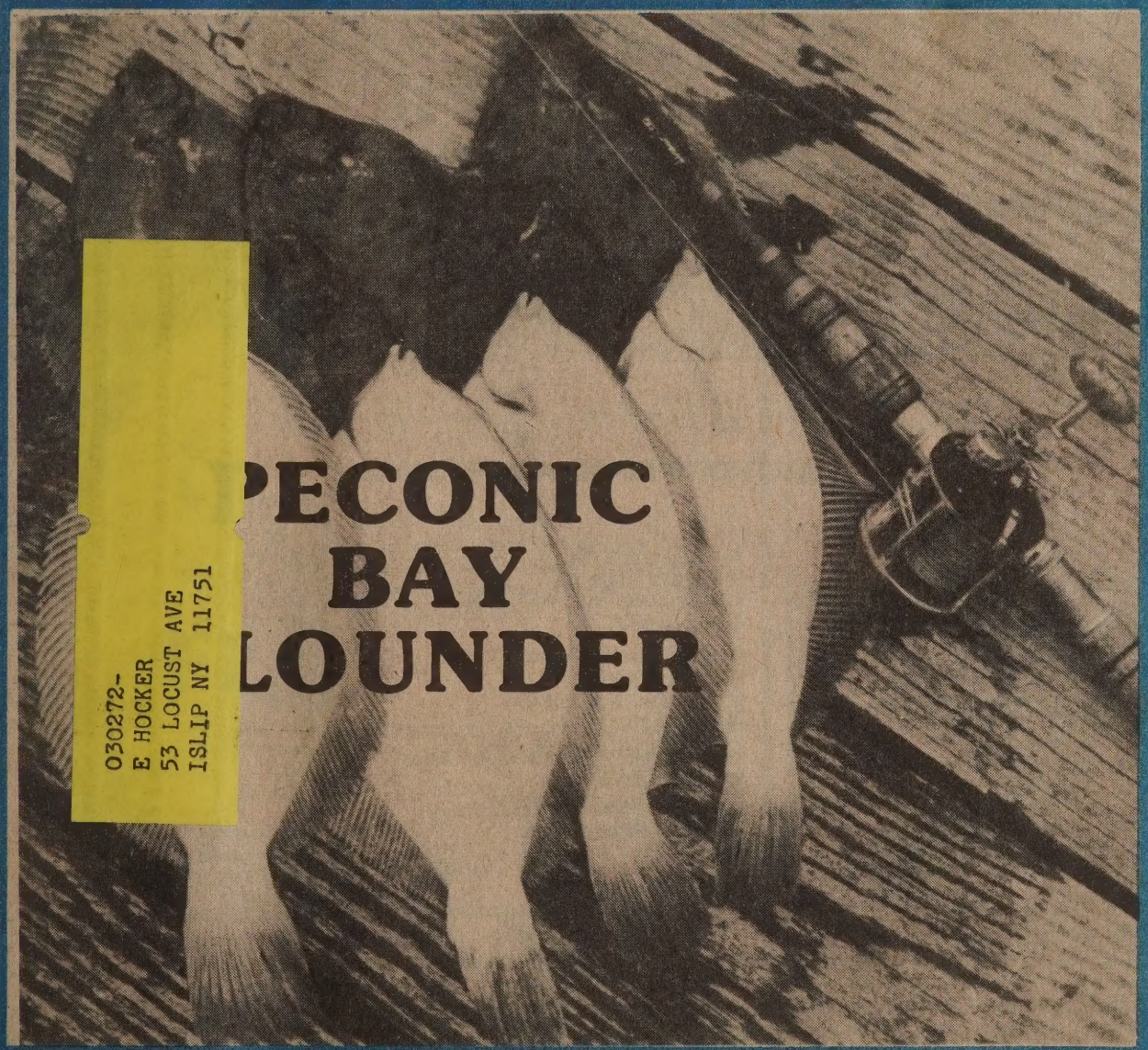
APRIL 8th, 1976, ISSUE No. 12



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THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

VOLUME 11, No. 12 April 8th, 1976

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ABOUT THE COVER: Any of the spots that Doc Muller mentions in the conclusion of his article "Peconic Bay Flounder," on page 18, can produce fish such as these.

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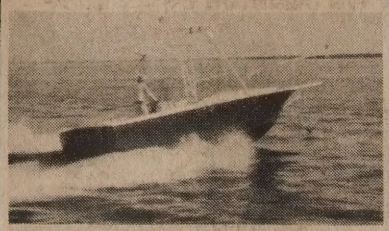

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CLUB NEWS

DICK MERMON AT SOUTH SEA ANGLERS

The South Seas Anglers of Seaford Harbor held their first educational meeting of the year and were proud to have as their guest speaker, the well known author and sportsman, Mr. Richard "Dick" Mermon.

Mr. Mermon did a wonderful job informing the members of the "Why's and How's of Striped Bass fishing. It was a pleasure having him there and we are looking forward to his return.

SURF CLUB SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Long Island Surf Fishing Club of Astoria, New York is seeking new members. Please contact Roy Harlick at (516) 742-8658 after 6 P.M.

BAYSIDE BELL ROD AND GUN CLUB

The Bayside-Bell Rod and Gun Club has openings for new members in the pistol division of the club. Anyone interested should contact Mr. Feldhamment at P.O. Box 67, Flushing, NY 11364.

NORTH BROOKHAVEN SPORT FISHERMEN'S CLUB

The next meeting of the North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen's Club Inc., will take place on Monday night, April 12th. The 9:00 P.M. meeting will be held in the Mt. Sinai Community House, located on North Country Road, in Mt. Sinai. (¼ mile east of the Mt. Sinai Firehouse).

Guest speaker for that meeting will be Bryon Young, a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Marine Biologist, working out of Stony Brook. Bryon will lecture on a just finished three year study of "The tagging of striped bass" in both the Hudson River and at Montauk Point.

Bryon will show the tags used by the State, and the special gun used to tag the fish. Along with his talk, will be a short color slide show, showing the work carried on by the State in the fish tagging program. A question and answer period will follow. Bryon is a graduate of the University of Maine.

All Island fishermen are invited to attend this meeting. Admission is free, and coffee will be served after the meeting.

Sport fishermen who want more information on the North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen's Club can call 588-6080 in the Lake Ronkonkoma area and 744-6260 in the Rocky Point area.

ROCKAWAY STRIPER CLUB

Club winners for 1975 are: Largest Bass, 37 pounds to F. Rannazzi; Most Point—S. Hyman and Sportsman of the Year to R. Harris.

Also the R.S.C. is seeking new members. The club is primarily a surf fishing club. We participate in the Schaefer Contest, award trophy's at our yearly dinner and fish all of Long Island. We are looking for serious surf fishermen with or without beach buggies who will become active members.

We also would like to schedule a couple of contests or casting tournaments with other clubs.

Anyone or club interested can contact club president Ed Wolfe at (212) 327-5161 evenings.

FARRAGUT STRIPER CLUB NEWS

The Farragut Striper Club recently held it's Annual Awards Dinner and Dance at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Valley Stream.

A great time was had by all and a great time was made even better for some of our members who won trophies for the past year.

The most noteworthy of these were Vito Orlando for his 1st place surf bass of 49 pounds 1 ounce. Vito also received the Club Trophy for most points surf and the Schaeffer Contest Trophy for largest N.Y. State Surf Bass.

Steve Petri, our illustrious President, received an award from both the club and Schaeffer for his Massachusetts State Rcord Bluefish of 22 pounds 4 ounces.

John Fritz was in there with trophies for most valuable angler and most tagged bass.

I, myself, received a trophy for the Largest Tagged Bass, which weighed 33 pounds 13 ounces.

In the final standings for Schaeffer, the Club won 1st place in the New York State Division for Blues From the Surf.

The officers for 1976 were re-elected unanimously and they remain: Steve Petri of Wantagh for President; Bill Meade of Brooklyn for Vice-President; Al Buccola of Brooklyn for Secretary; and John Gorla also of Brooklyn for Treasurer.

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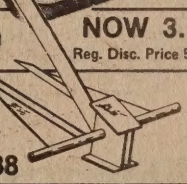

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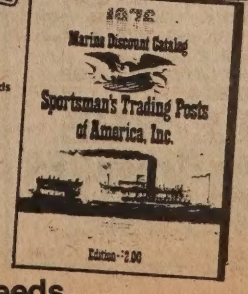

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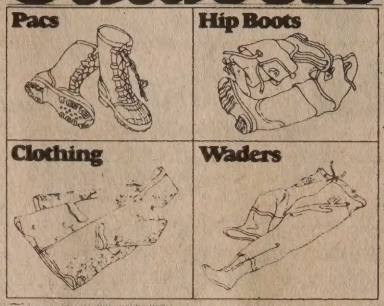

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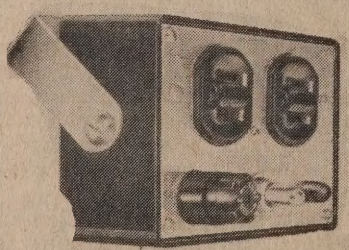

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News Releases

IGFA FIRST ANNUAL FISHING CONTEST

Beginning April 1, 1976, IGFA will innaugurate its First Annual Fishing Contest. Eligible species will include most marine fishes caught throughout the world and will not be confined to those species listed in the IGFA World Record Marine Fishes book. This is a new kind of contest in which all anglers will be able to participate. We believe that all recreational anglers will welcome the opportunity to gain worldwide recognition for their outstanding catches.

The 1976 World Record Marine Fishes book is now available for distribution. This book, along with the regular issues of The International Marine Angler publication and supplemental releases and special mailings, will keep all anglers up to date on all world records and the current standing of the new contest as it progresses. In future years, we plan to enlarge and refine this contest in order to acknowledge a wider range of catches.

IGFA has been serving recreational anglers since 1939, and it is the only worldwide organization of its kind. We firmly believe that there is no better investment in the future of recreational angling than a membership in IGFA. We welcome all anglers to participate in our new contest and to improve angling knowledge through our publications. If you are not a member, we would welcome your support. For further information write to International Game Fish Association, 3000 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316.

FREE FLOUNDER INSTRUCTION TO BE HELD AT WANTAGH PARK

Members of the Squadron Anglers' Club of the Jones Beach Power Squadron will hold a special free fishing clinic at Wantagh Park on Saturday, April 24th to offer instruction on flounder fishing in conjunction with the flounder fishing contest which will be held at the park the following Saturday, May 1st.

The Anglers' experts will tell how to select and use the most effective rods, reels, hooks, lines, sinkers and baits. In addition, in connection with tidal information, they will tell when and where to "murder 'em"—hopefully.

Participants may bring their own equipment to the clinic for evaluation, and any questions will be answered. The session will be held at 1 P.M. outside the Dockmaster's Building at the south end of the park.

TOWN SPONSORS FISHING CLINIC

The Town of Hempstead Department of Parks and Recreation will offer a four-part fishing clinic for all Town of Hempstead residents interested in obtaining information concerning the finer techniques of various types of fishing.

The clinics will be held at the Hempstead Town Hall Pavilion on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, April 20, 21 and 27 and 28 starting at 8:00 P.M. Town Hall Pavilion is located on the corner of Main Street and Penninsula Blvd. in the Village of Hempstead.

HUDSON ANGLERS SHARK TOURNAMENT

On August 7th, 1976 the Hudson Anglers will hold their Fourth Annual Shark Tournament. The purpose of the tournament is to boat only the largest of the species and tag the balance. The sharks brought in will be examined by various research groups and certain species will be preserved for examination by various colleges and oceanography schools.

Although it is expected that donated prizes of rods and reels will be awarded, the tournament will be run as in the past with cash awards being made to the winning anglers. In the 1975 tournament , with 87 boats entered at a fee of $25 per boat, cash prizes were awarded as follows:

1st, George Maisch of Freeport who won $1,082.00; 2nd to Gene Krakow also of Freeport who won $451.00 and 3rd to Charles Berwin of E. Rockaway who won $270.00.

This year the tournament fee will be $35.00 per boat, of which $27 will be awarded as prize monty; $8 will be used to defray the cost of printing, postage and posters. If, for example, 150 boats enter, the $4,050.00 p e money would be awarded as follows:

First prize would be 60% or $2,430.00, second prize would be 25% or 1,012.00 and third prize would be 15% or $607.50.

Departure, August 7th, will be from Mako Marina, Long Creek Marina or your port of call, but not breaking any inlet prior to 0600. Returning, boats must be within sight of Mako Marina dock not later than 1830. The rain date is August 8th. Reservations may be made for overnight dockage at the Town of Hempstead's Long Creek Marina.

A pamphlet with full details and an official entry form will be sent out at a later date. If you have any questions, please call me at the number below or you may call Roy Flood, Mako Marina at (516) 378-7331

FRESHWATER FISHING

with Angelo Peluso

SAVE THAT FISH

If you are like me, you must work pretty darn hard for your trophy size fish. When that special moment of truth arrives, I am certain that you masterfully play and subsequently bring to net the monster. If the fish's proportions are sizeable enough you would most likely entertain the notion to have the specimen mounted for permanent display.

This article will treat the subject of fishing from the point in time after the fish has been caught, should the fish be a candidate for the taxidermist. You might be wondering why I would treat an entire paper to this subject, but you might also be very surprised to learn that a good many fine fish are ruined before they ever reach the taxidermy shop. The angler must be certain to care for his fish in a manner that will ensure for a fine finished product.

During a recent conversation with Robert Pitney, a local taxidermist operating out of Eastport New York, I questioned him in regard to possible tips that he could give to fishermen intending to have a trophy mounted. The following represent Bob's reply.

1. Planning for an impressive trophy must begin even before the fish is landed. The angler should plan to carry a camera loaded with some good color film A clear photograph or color transparency is an invaluable reference for the taxidermist attempting to gain a "true to life" replica. All photographs should be taken while the fish is still alive, and should be taken from a variety of angles.

2. If a camera is not available at the time the fish is landed, color notes can be quite helpful. Indicate on a piece of paper the various color tones and shades that are unique to this particular fish. If you can make a rough sketch of the fish, it would also be helpful to draw the location of any specific markings. A final possibility is to obtain from a magazine a color reproduction of the species you are having mounted. If the color pattern is to your liking, send it along with the fish to the taxidermist.

3. One of the most vital steps in protecting your fish occurs in the field. A little care here can save a lot of extra work later; a bit of preparation can go a long way. A burlap sack or towel should be taken along on the fishing trip. When a prized catch is taken, the towel or sack should be soaked in water and used as a wrapping within which the fish is placed. This phase will accomplish two things. Firstly, the fish is kept cool and secondly, the fins and scales are protected from any damage that might occur if the fish is left dangling from a stringer or flopping in the boat. In the event that a towel or sack is not available, wet moss or leaves serve as a very acceptable substitute.

4. Depending upon the transportation time from the point of the catch to either your home or taxidermist, the question of spoilage becomes a critical one. For the return trip, the angler can take advantage of a portable cooler as a device to keep the trophy fresh. Again, the burlap sack, towel or moist leaves serve as alternate choices. Once the angler has gotten the fish home, he can follow two courses of action. The first is by far the best for the average fisherman, and that is to freeze the fish. The second is to actually skin and salt, which is something that should not even be attempted if one does not have any experience in performing a task of this nature.

5. Prior to freezing, wet the fish well and wrap the fins and tail in wet tissue-type paper. Place a bent cardboard over the tail so as to keep it from being damaged while in a frozen state. Wrap the entire fish in a plastic sheet or bag and seal with freezer tape. Freeze the fish for about 12 hours then remove for about one half hour. This will create a layer of ice over the fish and keep it in good condition for several months. (If you can wait that long!) Make very certain not to use newsprint when wrapping the fish, and be especially certain not to place the fish directly in the freezer without any protective wrapping; this will cause damaging freezer burn and can ruin a potentially nice mount.

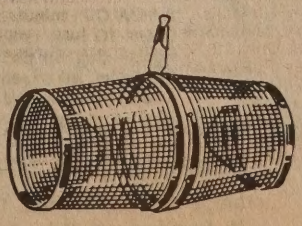
6. If you are going to ship the fish to the taxidermist, via some form of delivery service, wrap the package in about one inch of newspaper. (Note that I said package, not the fish itself. Refer to step 5.) Put the wrapped fish in a box and pack with dry ice. Contact the taxidermist and notify him of the package being sent. Follow-up the fish with a separate envelope containing the information about the fish's coloration.

A fish that is improperly handled and/or cared for after it has been caught will not lend itself to the best possible duplication once the taxidermist begins work. A great part is played by the fisherman toward ensuring a good natural reproduction. A taxidermist is capable of turning out a fine product only if he is given something to work with from the start.

For those of you that might be interested in trying your hand at taxidermy as a hobby let me suggest a fine reference book that has assisted me greatly during attempts that I have made. This book is published by Shooter's Bible and is entitled "Taxidermy Guide". The author is Russell Tinsley. Contained within are a multitude of projects that the taxidermist/hobbyist can become involved with. Specifically, there are some explicit instructions detailing the methods used for preparing a fish for either a mold or a skin mount. I'd like to say though that once you give fish mounting a try, you will appreciate the artistry that is applied by the professional taxidermist. There are so many subtle refinements achieved by professionals that would take the amateur many, many years to learn.

Long Island has many excellent taxidermists residing here who practice their craft on a very professional scale. During a recent talk with Tony Romano of Island Taxidermy, I learned of his true dedication to professionalism within the art of taxidermy. He has a sincere objective to produce the best possible product and takes a deep professional pride in any of the work that goes through his shop. The point of importance here is that you, the fisherman, can feel relatively safe to place your prized possession in the hands of a Long Island taxidermist with all confidence that an excellent end product will be the result.

After all of the hard work that you go through to get that lunker sized critter to hit your lure, and after the excitement of the fight, take the extra time, effort and precautions to "save that fish". The enjoyable memories themselves will be well worth it.



Whiting Evans

The Casting Gourmet

Smelt Buttermilk Fillets Fluke Salad

"The word is out—Smelt are in". These words begin the release from the National Fishery Education Center received just a short while ago. The description of the following recipe intrigued me to the extent that I was determined to try smelts myself. Although I know of a place on the north side of Long Island where these fish can be netted (if you don't mind doing the work (sport?) in the wee sma' hours of the night) along with a preponderance of alewives—which you can freeze for use later on in the season for bait or chum—I simply went to the market and bought some smelts. Although the very thought of buying fish of any kind (from an angler's viewpoint) is positively heretical I'm glad I did for these fish prepared in this manner are tasty beyond belief. The fluke, when you are fishing for them starting in May, also find smelt one of their favorite diets.

The "release" went on to say, "For goodness sake, eat smelt', is the advice of both amateur and commercial smelt fishermen. Whether you dip your own or do your dipping at the seafood market, smelt are good to eat and good for you. They are available pan-ready, either fresh or frozen, and may be used in a myriad of cooking styles. An extra bonus is the moderate price. Cheesy Oven Fried Smelt is an easy-do method that transforms the smelt into a 'the more you eat the more you want' food. Crusty on the outside with cheese and bread crumbs, tender and flaky on the inside, this is a fun food. So take a fun break, please the family and pamper the budget—serve smelt today."

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Cheesy Oven Fried Smelt

3 pounds pan-dressed smelt (or other small pan-dressed fish, fresh or frozen.)
½ cup milk
½ teaspoon salt
1½ cups flavored bread crumbs.
¼ cup grated Parmesan Cheese
⅓ cup oleo or butter, melted
Paprika

Thaw frozen fish. Clean, wash and dry. Combine milk and salt. Combine crumbs and cheese. Dip fish in milk and roll in crumbs. Place in a single layer in well-greased baking pans 15 by 10 by 1 inches. Pour melted butter or oleo over the fish. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake in

an extremely hot oven, 500 degrees F., for 8 to 10 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork. Makes six servings.

Buttermilk Fried Fillets

Here, in this recipe, we find the delight of the British. Juicy fillets (of almost any not-too-oily fish may be used) rolled in fresh buttermilk, then rolled in a biscuit mix and fried to a golden crispiness.

2 pounds skinless fresh fillets
1 cup buttermilk
1 cup biscuit mix
2 teaspoons salt

Cut the fillets into serving size portions. Place fillets in a single layer in a shallow dish. Pour buttermilk over the fillets and let stand for 30 minutes, turning once. Combine the biscuit mix. Fry in moderately hot fat for 4 or 5 minutes until brown. Turn carefully and fry 4 or 5 minutes longer or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Drain on absorbent paper. Serve with lemon wedges or malt vinegar. Serves 6.

Fluke Salad

Many of you have no doubt read an article in a recent issue of the Long Island Fisherman entitled "Tease a Weak" and written by Capt. Bob Schavel, a charter boat captain—part time. He lives in Amity Harbor and has a small twenty foot craft named the "Striper Swiper". He has been specializing in weakfish but intends to extend his piscatorial activities to striped bass. He has also written another article for the LIF called "State Channel Bass" and it is due to his thoughtfulness that he sent me the following recipe for which he does not claim credit. He calls it "Sheila's Salad" and tells me that when he serves it to some of his friends and clients he tells them that it is lobster or shrimp salad. And, he says, "They believe me!"

3 pounds flounder or fluke fillets
salt and pepper to taste
½ head lettuce
1 large onion chopped very finely
2 stalks celery chopped finely
enough mayonnaise to make all ingredients adhere.

Boil the fillets in salted water until they are snowy white and flake easily with a fork. Drain off the water and mash. Add the salt and pepper to taste. Then add the chopped onion and celery and then sufficient mayonnaise so that all the ingredients stick together. Now chill mixture in your refrigerator until cold. Place on top lettuce leaves garnished with sections of lemons.

Capt. Schavel wants us to know that the recipe was given to him by Sheila Sable of East Meadow, New York. I say "Thank you Sheila—and Bob!"

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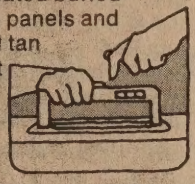

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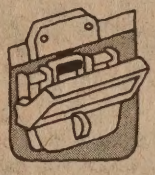

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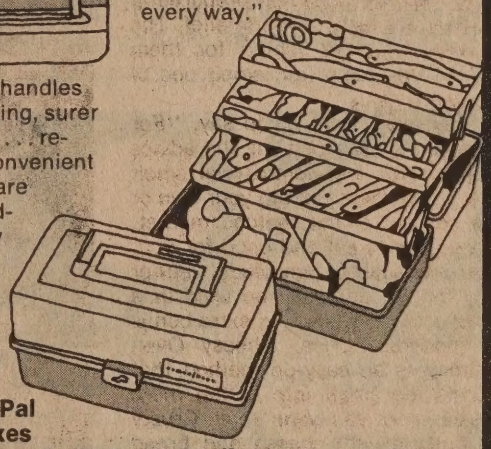

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Surf Side with John Fritz

The End of the Fight

You just made a beautiful cast, right across the rip. The pulsating rod tip tells you the plug is working just right. The fish hits. You set the hook. He's on! After a stirring give and take battle, the last and most crucial moment arrives. How to get this beauty safely on the beach.

The method that you use to land your fish depends on many factors: the size of the fish, tackle weight, surf conditions, the angler's ability, and mostly where you and your fish are in relation to dry land. The ways to get that fish in the bag are as varied as the types of shore front areas that exist on Long Island.

Recall how many times you saw a fisherman swinging wildly in the process of gaffing a fish. Too many times the end result is only to knock the fish off the hook when it could have easily been beached with patience and a little help from our friends—the waves.

To gaff or not to gaff, that is the question. On numerous occasions a gaff is not necessary and your fish can be landed by riding her onto the beach on the breaking waves. If you have waded out where it is impractical to use this method slip your fingers under the gill plates and with a firm grasp immobilize the fish while you dislodge the hook. When the fish feels your fingers in it's gills she is going to thrash about, therefore, quick sure movements are required to prevent those swinging hooks from imbedding in your hand. If you intend to release the fish try not to damage the sensitive gills. Naturally with these methods the fish are either small or must be played out, landing a "green" fish holds many surprises.

It's those other items that we will be concerned with in this article, when a gaff is the difference between your prize on the stringer or tears in your eyes.

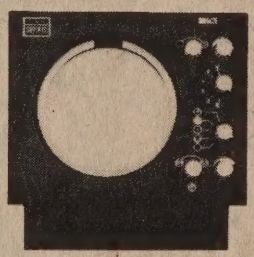
There are basically three sizes of gaffs used from the beach. The first is long handled which is 8 to 12 feet or longer and is used from bridges, jetties or under the Light at Montauk. This long gaff can be easily made by obtaining the desired length of aluminum pipe. Making sure the sidewall has sufficient backbone for the job. Most of the time you will be lifting straight up but there are times when some leverage must be used and one thing you don't need is a crimp in the pipe.

The actual length will depend on where you intend to fish. When you're alone you will have to be able to manipulate the gaff with one hand while holding the rod with the other. One can always trim the down shaft if you find it's too clumsy or maybe unsuited for your particular purpose.

The gaff hooks can be purchased in any well supplied tackle shop. They are attached to the pipe with screw type stainless steel radiator hose clamps. The size of the hook is up to you but it is easier to get one that is too large rather than too small. In most cases you will be lifting the fish out of the water with this gaff, so make sure the hook is strong enough and securely attached to the shaft. This pipe can be threaded and the use of a coupling will make it possible to break the gaff down for easy storage. Check with a local clammer about how the shafts of their clam tongs are coupled.

When fishing under the Light at the big M, using standard 11 foot sticks and 15 pound test or better line, the smaller fish can be swung on the rocks. Swing the fish to the side, without hitting the guy next to you in the face. Do not bring the fish straight in to you because the strain in this angle on the tip of the rod can cause it to snap.

The second or middle sized gaff is nothing more than a small boat gaff, approximately 3 to 4 feet long. This is normally used when bait fishing for large bass or blues in normal surf. This gaff is usually wielded by a buddy or helpful neighbor, who will leave his rods unattended to wade into the surf after your fish.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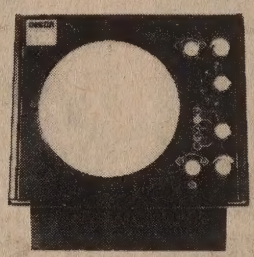
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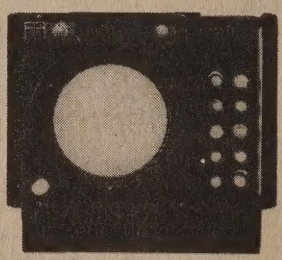
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It is wise to know who your gaffer is because many big fish are lost at this point through inexperience. The most flagrant error is to swing at the fish from the top. The gaff point should be positioned under the fish or on the seaward side and with a short quick thrust up or towards the beach, sink the point into the fish. This might be easier to say than to do when you and the fish are being washed back and forth in a heavy surf, especially at night. Wait your chance, it's better than swinging wildly in the dark with your waders or worse yet—your leg the "gaffee."

Also resist the temptation to grab the line because this could be disastrous. Any sudden surge by the fish can pull the hook free or part of the line. In this same vein watch out not to tangle yourself in the line. Once you stick the fish don't try to lift it out of the water. Just drag or slide her up on the beach.

We now come to the small personal gaff which is carried on the belt. Here we have many variations suited to each one's preferences and fishing habits. Those who fish perched on a rock require a longer handle in order to reach down for a fish. A shaft that is long will tangle between your legs if you are wading out into the surf at North Bar or where you are constantly being bounced around.

Another innovation over the standard store bought gaff is the opening of the bite of the hook. Some guys open these to almost a right angle. When using this type gaff a sharp point is more important than in other types. In this case you swing overhand to impale the fish while standing above her, trying to dig your toes into the seaweed of the rock and not join the fish in the water. In order to give added impetus to sink the point some anglers add lead weights to the shaft just before the bend. Sticking the fish on the first shot is more important here because of the direction and angle of the swing. Be careful when lifting the fish in this case because the wide angle of the gap will allow the fish to easily slip off the point.

This angle gaff head is preferred when you are above the fish and swinging down. When you have waded hip deep into the sea a more conventional bend is used. This way you either come up from under the fish lying next to you or if she is a little green, make a slash at her as you lead her towards you with the rod tip. In this case hold the rod parallel to the water to prevent the fish from raising her head out and thus spitting the hook more easily.

My preference is somewhere between the standard bend and the right angle bend. Your preference will come through trial and error but maybe these few words will help keep those errors down to a minimum.

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CROSSING THE BAR with Don Vetter

SPRING FEVER
Part Two

Now, while your boat is still out of the water, is the time to check those underwater fittings. Are there any signs of damage, corrosion or looseness to them? Does the prop show any nicks, cracks or signs of bent blades? If it does, pull it for reconditioning or for replacement if the damage appears extensive. Check the rudder for signs of excessive play or looseness which would indicate that the control linkage needs tightening. Examine the radio ground plate and depth finder transducer for any signs of looseness. Check all through-hull fittings particularly the screens on the engine water intake to be sure they are not clogged.

Since we have covered outboard maintenance extensively in the past, there is little need to go into it here, but a few words on stern drives may be in order. The engines which power these units are basically inboards which we will examine in depth a little later on. First of all, check over the entire outdrive unit for any damaged or loose parts which might require repair or replacement. Check the oil in the housing for water contamination which would indicate a leak. Refill the lubricant in the upper and lower gearcases and check the gasket seals. Check the rubber boot at the transom for brittleness, cracks and wear and tear; replace it if any of these signs are present. Take off the prop and check the blades for nicks and chips. Lubricate the shaft before replacing. While the prop is off, check the zinc collar under it to see if it shows signs of deterioration. Lubricate the tilt and shift booster assemblies and the steering linkage. Check for any looseness or play.

Above-decks work on boat must begin with a thorough washdown, using fresh water, detergent and a soft brush. The next step is to check the rigging: things like antennas, outrigger sockets, dinghy davits and cockpit cover frames. Check for broken fittings and loose deck plates, damaged or badly corroded mooring bits. If you have a power winch, give it a thorough going over as well. Check the condition of electronic equipment; if you've been having trouble with your electronics, the winter layover was the best time for removal and servicing. Check the engine and steering controls for smoothness of operation. Be sure all the instruments on your panel are in good working order. Be sure your compass is not out of adjustment. Check the rubber in your wiper blades. Is it live and resilient or hard and dry and ready for replacement?

Be sure all your life-saving equipment is in good order; water logged preservers and flattened out boat cushions are of little value. Check the charge in all your fire extinguishers and re-charge if necessary. Check your horn and running light bulbs, replace any that are burned out. Check your rod-holders for signs of corrosion and tightness, and be sure the interior cockpit lights are working. Look for corrosion at the joints and deckplates of all rails, stanchions, pulpits and ladders. Check for any signs of wobble or looseness and tighten fittings as necessary. Use the turnbuckles to take up any slack in wires and lifelines and replace the plastic covering on the wire if it shows signs of wear.

Now is the time to check for any topside leaks before they start to drip down the back of your neck on a rainy day. Port windows and hatch frames are likely spots for these leaks to develop, so check them carefully. Channels in sliding windows have drain holes. Be sure they are not plugged. Joints between cabin sides and decks are another place likely to develop leaks; check them out. Use a hose to locate the leaks and use synthetic rubber sealant to plug them when found. Keep in mind that water has a tendency to drip into the cabin some distance from the point where it gains access from the outside.

If your deckhouse, cabin tops, sides, etc. are fiberglass, use a paste cleaner, followed by waxing and polishing. If the surface is badly weathered or abraded, you can paint it with a paint specifically designed for fiberglass. This applies to

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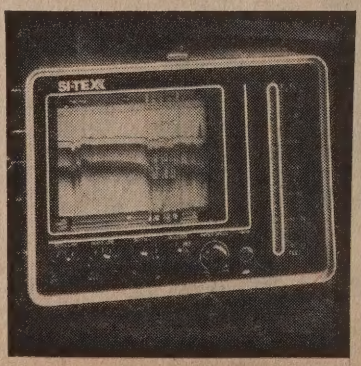

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canvas-covered cabin tops as well. If you want the surface to provide sure footing, use a non-slip paint. Deckhouse and cabin sides may be painted with any paint compatible with the old finish, if any.

After painting superstructure, it's time to take on the decks. Decks can take a hell of a beating during the season, particularly if you do a great deal of fishing. Fiberglass decks usually have a non-skid surface molded into them, so use a solvent to remove tar and any other assorted crud which may adhere to them. Nicks and gouges can be taken care of with polyster patching compound or gel-coat. Light sanding will remove surface grime from teak decks which require little else in the way of attention unless you want to apply one of the teak "restorer" compounds and sealer. Urethane varnish does a nice job of maintaining bright-finished, varnished decks, though why any fisherman in his right mind would want slippery, varnished decks, is beyond me. Painted wood or canvas covered decks should be given a coat of the aforementioned non-slip paint.

When you descend to the engine room, the first order of business is to check the hour meter and log book to ascertain how long it has been since your last overhaul. A minor tune-up may be in order if you don't feel up to changing plugs, points and condenser and setting the timing (a simple task with the aid of your owner's manual), make an appointment with your mechanic. There are many engine jobs you can definitely handle yourself, starting with draining the anti-freeze from the cooling system (there are plugs at the bottom of the block and manifolds) and refilling with fresh water to check for leaks. If your engine has a closed-type, recirculating fresh water cooling system, antifreeze is best left in year-round anti-rust protection.

The next order of business is to change the crankcase oil. Draining the old oil is messy; better to pump it out and refill with fresh. Be sure to check the dipstick to be sure you have the proper level when you finish. Replace all oil and fuel filters if they are of the cartridge type, clean them thoroughly if they are the screen variety. Take off the carburetor flame-arrestor and clean the core with a brush and kerosene. Check the V belts for wear and proper tension, and tighten or replace as necessary. Oil the generator and check its charging rate on your ammeter; adjust if the rate is on the low side. Alternators have sealed bearings which do not require oiling and adjustments to them are best left in the hands of a competent mechanic.

Check your batteries, cables and sudbury switch. Check the battery's charge with a hydrometer and clean any corrosion from the terminals with a wire brush and coat them with petroleum jelly. Check the starter motor and relays being sure that the solenoids snap over when the ignition is turned on. Check the ignition harness and distributor cap; replace if you find any checks or cracks. Be sure the spark plug leads are all tight. Inspect the engine water pumps and lubricate them with a special grease designed for the purpose. Check the fuel tanks and all fuel lines for any sign of leakage, and be sure all fittings are tight. Look over the bilge pump(s) check the switch and pump operation and be sure the intake screen and outlet are clear. Check the operation of the bilge blowers and vents to be sure that the tubing is properly connected to the vents.

Moving on from the engine room, the cabin is next. Refurbish the interior by cleaning up inside decks and bulkheads and painting where necessary. Clean the drapes, carpet, cushions, bedding, etc. if your boat has them. Check out the galley thoroughly, starting with the stove. If it uses liquid fuel, refill the tank and open the line to the burners. Propane and other pressurized fuel stoves require little attention other than checking on the fuel supply. Give the sink some attention; drain the anti-freeze from the supply and drainage lines. If you use pressure water system, check the operation of the pump. Check the head; if the system has been laid up with anti-freeze in it, this too will need to be drained and flushed. With the wide variety of holding tanks on the market today, you should carefully follow the manufacturer's maintenance instructions in regard to the particular system you employ.

There is no getting around the fact that there is a considerable amount of work involved in owning a boat, and there are times in the spring of the year when you wonder if you'll ever get it all done in time to enjoy any length of time on the water. If, however, you start early enough in the spring and plan out each task in advance, budgeting your time to the best effect, you will find that it wasn't so difficult after all.

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Sinker Bouncing

Terminal Tackle

with Matt Ahern

Next to actually putting fish in the bucket, I believe the bottom fisherman's prime interest lies in his terminal tackle. If it isn't, it should be, for without this interest, he'll catch few fish, indeed. The trouble is that with all the various hooks, gadgets, sinkers, etc., on the market it is often confusing. For many, it seems to be a case of not being able to see the forrest because of the trees.

It would be nice if one rig would suffice for all fish. How simple then the fisherman's task. But for some anglers, the sport would not be as exciting, for every veteran sinker bouncer I know is an experimenter of sorts. I can personally vouch for this, for not only have I seen some weird contraptions dreamed up by other fishermen, but over the years, I've turned out some beauties myself.

I suppose every fisherman's main interest is centered on fishhooks. There is something about that thin, curved bit of tempered steel that causes a dyed-in-the-wool fisherman to forget his immediate surroundings at the mere sight of one.

Hook manufacturers and fishing tackle mail-order houses know this, of course, and they fill their catalogs with page after page of enough hook patterns to make a fisherman's head swim. This is not a condemnation by any means, for every one of these hooks will do the job for which they have been designed. The fisherman just has to know which is suitable for him and take it from there.

Fortunately for the sinker bouncer, there are only four types of hooks in their various sizes necessary to do a job on Long Island's fish. These are the Sproat, Carlisle, Chestertown and Virginia.

Except for the American manufactured Eagle Claw and Pflueger hooks, which incidentally the fisherman can never go wrong in using, most fishhooks are foreign manufactured.

These overseas companies all make hooks in the four designs listed, but I believe that for strength and temper, none of them come near those produced by O. Mustad and Son of Oslo, Norway. LIke their American counterparts, Mustad makes no shoddy hooks. This is the company that supplies the world's commercial fisheries, making well over 50,000 varieties. If you are interested in foreign imports, these are the ones to consider.

Okay, now we're squared away on that.

Not only would it be nice if one rig sufficed for all fish, it would be nicer still if one hook and one size were all one needed. Alas, such is not the case, and as Shakespeare said, there lies the rub. It is here where many errors occur, errors that cost fishermen untold numbers of fish each year.

The beginner especially should bear in mind that there is a fishhook designed for each type of fish he seeks. The proper design will always assure better hooking, providing of course, the correct size is used. Correct size is the key. I've seen cod caught on large Chestertown flounder hooks, but never have I seen a flounder caught on a codfish hook. The flattie may be willing to give it a try, but how is he going to get that oversized hook in its small mouth?

Many factors enter into proper hook selection. Does the fish usually suck in the bait like a flounder? Does it get the hook deep in its innards like an eel? Or does it peck rapidly at the bait like a porgy? Is it possessed of a large mouth and much weight like a cod? Is it wary like a blackfish, making a short-biting hook necessary? All these, and more, must be taken into consideration by the fisherman when selecting the proper hook.

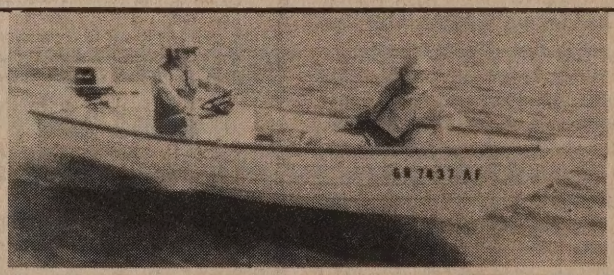
No one hook is perfect for any fish. Too many factors enter into the selection to make it so. Is the barometer high or low? This effects how the fish will attack a bait on any given day. Is the current fast or slow? Is fishing being done where it's shallow or deep? And how clear is the water? Is it a cloudy day or one filled with bright sunshine? This can be of extreme importance when codfishing, for cod often bite best on cloudy days. And on those days a smaller than usual hook, say a 5/0 beak or Eagle Claw can be used with more success.

As you can see, it's enough to make a guy want to take up golf or tennis, or some other sane sport. All one can hope for is to use a hook that will best do the job under any of these unknown conditions.

Let's take the two specialized hooks first, the Chestertown and the Virginia.

The Chestertown is the flounder fisherman's hook and is especially designed for these fish. They can be found in sizes from two to ten, with the size becoming smaller as the numbers increase. For all around flounder fishing in the bays or Sound, numbers nine or ten are best, with number nine getting the nod. For Montauk's snowshoes in May, size two to four do fine, with the edge favoring number four. The long

JOHN DORY



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shank of these hooks makes removal easy.

The Virginia hook has been especially developed for the blackfisherman. There is no doubt in my mind that somebody, somewhere put in a lot of time and experimentation before coming up with this hook. My fishing cap is doffed to this unknown fisherman, because he certainly came up with the perfect blackfish hook.

I've caught blackfish on Sproats, Chestertowns, and you name it, but I've never caught as many large blacks as I have on these hooks. Their special offset barb and short bite make the blackfisherman's job a lot easier, and when blackfishing any aid to help put the tricky black in the bucket is welcome, indeed.

For bay blackfish, Virginia hooks in size eight to six are best, with my favorite being number six. For offshore, or where you know real bulldogs abound, numbers two to four will do the trick.

The Carlisle with its long shank is best used as a fluke hook, or for any fish known to have sharp teeth, such as the whiting. The sizes usually used for fluke run from 1/0 to 5/0, and I would strike a happy medium by selecting a 3/0 for all around fishing.

The Sproat has been the "Fisherman's hook" for generations. This is the one we picture when someone mentions fishhooks. I doubt if there is a species of fish susceptible to the baited hook while swimming the world's oceans and inland waters that hasn't been caught on this hook.

From the small number six sometimes used for flounder, to the large 8/0 for cod, these Sproat hooks account for more fish around Long Island than any other. It's the one to use in its proper size when the design for the fish you seek is unknown or not available. They are an excellent porgy, sea bass, ling, whiting, cod and pollock hook.

Some fishermen connect their snelled hooks and leaders directly to the main line with a simple double-overhand knotted loop at the prescribed distance from the sinker. Others use a variety of devices to accomplish this end, thereby doing away with the knotted loop which they feel may cut into the line under the stress of an outsized fish.

These range from the free-swinging hook holder "H" swivels and "L" shaped codfish swiveling rigs, to the light-wired hook gear for flounder, to three-way swivels and "Quick-Rigs". The selection is confusing, but this is no problem when the fisherman remembers the cardinal rule pertaining to all bottom fishing: The less hardware, the better.

There are only two gadgets on this list I consider worthwhile and they are the three-way swivel and the "Quick-Rig". All others are shunned by me, for in my estimation, they cost fish. We won't even consider those abominations known as flounder spreaders. They foul too easily on the slightest rough bottom.

Three-way swivels of the proper size for the fish you seek should be attached to the main line by the use of an Improved Clinch Knot. If you don't know how to tie this knot, learn how as soon as possible, because actually this is the only knot the bottom fisherman need know when making up his terminal tackle. When properly tied, this knot never slips and your line will break before it lets go.

"Quick-Rigs" are purchased in tackle shops and cost pennies. If you are not sure how they go on your line, ask the man behind the counter to show you. With them you can place your rig anywhere on the main line without making knots. They are extremely strong for their size. Several years ago, I caught a 47 pound cod while using one and it never gave a bit of trouble. It came up a little tired, but it held.

Barrel swivels have several uses: As a stop when using a fish-finder rig, or as a connector between a pre-made rig and the main line when fishing a strong tide, or when cod or mackerel fishing. If mackerel fishing, be advised to use a barrel swivel of dull color, or paint it black. Mackerel love to strike them, which may be fine for them, but not for you. You can also use snap-swivels in their place, but these are mainly for quick lure changing as when weakfishing.

Sinker snaps are handy. They are the ones with the oversized loop on one end. When using these while flounder or fluke fishing, you can slip your rig in the loop along with the sinker. Be advised though, that when flounder fishing during late spring when the fish nip at the bait and go, it is better to tie your hooks directly to the line for more sensitive command over the line.

You'll see connecting links used occasionally, but they aren't necessary for the bottom fisherman who uses three-way, barrel, or snap swivels.

Sinkers should be of the bank type, weight depending on the strength of current. Carry a supply of various weights to compensate for changing tidal conditions. You may lose some too, especially when blackfishing.

Of all these gadgets mentioned, none can take the place of the fishhook; they are but an aid to get that hook in the fish's mouth. Some fish can be caught without these gadgets, but not without the proper type and size hook. So it behooves the fisherman to study one of the good hook catalogs put out by reputable tackle companies.

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BASS FISHING with Capt. John DeMaio

The Art of Bucktail Casting

Part Two

In my first article I made many statements as what is best to use. Throughout these articles I will be making even more comments, on what and how. Before I become misunderstood, and even create hard feelings among some people, I shall try to explain.

In my previous writing I mentioned that the only thing a spinning outfit was good for was a surfcaster. The need for spinning tackle in my mode of fishing is non-existent. Still, this does not mean that a spinning outfit cannot take bass on bucktails—it definitely will. Anyone that has chartered my boat will testify to that. What I mean is that the conventional outfit (with all things considered) will positively take MORE fish.

There are given days when anything can happen. These are exceptions! Not the rule. You do not fill up the fish box with exceptions. Crack pot lures, lines that glow, and a million plastic inspired creations to tempt bass are endless. As I said these are mostly the exceptions. They may work for the day, maybe the season, but not year after year. The only reason why the bucktail is not working at one end of the line is because the fisherman on the other end does not know what the hell he is doing. This rule applies all the way down the line. From six surfcasters lined up casting the same plug and only one guy catching, to an armada of boats trolling and only a few catching.

I am passing on years of experience in casting bucktails. What I declare here has been proven year after year. Take it for whatever you want. If you have a secret lure that's murder—God bless you. If you can cast a figure eight in mid-air with a spinning outfit, terrific. You may just have a winner. If so, let me know. One thing I do not have is a closed mind, and I hope I never will. Constantly I try the latest and the newest. (To the delight of tackle dealers). Trying new tackle can even be fun.

I have taken bass on plugs, (very few) tubes, spoons, feathers, nylon jigs, diamond jigs, hopkins, blackfish, bunkers, snappers, mackerel, porgies, killies, grass-shrimp, squid, crabs, bloodworms, sandworms, clams and clam chum.

This makes a point. The damned fish will bite anything. But this article is devoted to catching striped bass by casting bucktails. So please take my word. What you find here in print is the fruit of my labor. Give it a try.

A properly worked bucktail will also take more than its share of big bass, as evidenced by this nice catch taken on Capt. John De Maio's charterboat, "Vivienne."

This second article will be on casting while drifting. If you are asking right now "Is there any other way?" You are really a dummy. Yes there is! Casting while anchored.

Although the same technique applies to drifting and anchored, each method has its own tricks. Both are equally as difficult to master. To place all the aspects involved into A.B.C. type categories is difficult because everything is so related that it all needs to be mentioned together. So bear with me and I will endeavor to do my best.

Let's begin with the retrieve. There are only two types of retrieve—one fast, the other slow. Now that in itself is about as informative as "tomorrow the sun will rise". The trick here is that the fast retrieve should always be accompanied by a snap. A fast straight moving bucktail will work for a troller, not the caster.

Most fishermen cannot snap the rod correctly. What I see mostly is a twitch, especially the spin fishermen. A twitch is a retrieved line with a casual jerk, (Twitch) on the rod. The angler most likely will stop reeling while doing the twitch. This is wrong, all wrong. Never stop reeling while snapping the rod. Try to get a good rhythm going. At the right speed of retrieve you will feel a fluid movement develop.

On the forward snap the lure will jump ahead, on the back stroke sink. It is at this point that the lure sinks that the fish will hit. So it is important to maintain control over the slack created on the backward stroke, if you want to set the hook.

You should position yourself as though you were standing in the batters box. Never snap the rod behind your body. You will run out of swing and not be able to set that hook. You must be in a position to hook the fish. To help explain, let us use the clock. If you're casting into 9 o'clock you should be facing somewhere about 10 and snapping the rod between 9 and 11. Hold the rod extended out at a level with the water. This is easier than holding the rod with the tip over your head. It is also more effective and that's our main concern. (If you are interested, this is the best retrieve for nailing a bluefish.) Keep the snap going from start to finish. If this is not working there are variations. Here is one that is deadly. After getting the rhythm going on the snap, stop on the backward swing and simply continue reeling at a very slow pace for a few seconds before going back to the snap. Keep repeating. You will be amazed how often the fish will hit at the change of pace.

The only other variation will be the speed of retrieve. As a rule, if you're snapping the rod you should maintain a fast retrieve. It will take practice before you develop the fluid motion I speak of.

The slow retrieve. This appears as the

easiest, but in reality is the most difficult to perform. Limited knowledge and poor skills play the devil to hopeful bass fishermen on this retrieve. Slow retrieve is the number one fish catching method!

The object here is to work the lure slowly across and above the bottom. To do this you must judge your speed of drift and know how deep the water is. Then you must select the right weighted lure. Too light a lure will ride above the fish, heavy lures will hang or bounce the bottom.

If you are over sand, bouncing the bottom isn't all that bad. Rocks will hang the lure fast. If you are hanging the lure then you know you're going too deep. You may want to deliberately feel for the bottom to get a good idea how deep you are. A knowledge of the area and the tide and wind conditions take the guesswork out of selecting the right weight head to start with. As you now understand, the correct weight head is very important.

A slow retrieve should be very slow. Just as slow as possible without hanging. In fact, there are times when I don't even turn the handle and simply let the lure glide by. Gliding is not so effective but does work.

Another trick is to "drop back." This can be done at any speed retrieve. Stop turning the handle during your retrieve, release the free spool, and allow some line to drop back. Then continue again. This will add time and length to your retrieve and permit the bucktail to go deeper.

When drifting, always cast into the direction you are drifting from. Never cast into the direction you're going unless the fish are showing. Casting into the direction you're going only allows the lure to die a miserable death of inactivity. All you will be doing is taking up the slack in the line and never moving the lure.

If at all possible, always cast the lure directly into the tide. Not sideways, but always into the tide. Here is where the caster is able to outfish the troller. Nothing is more appealing to a bass than a properly presented bucktail moving down-tide. Pure dynamite!

Of course, there are problems casting from where you're coming. Aren't there always? You will most definately be casting into the wind. Unless the tide is boss over the wind.

Without wind, you will be drifting with the tide, which is best. (Never be afraid of strong tides. Bass love them. Learn how to fish strong tides.) Wind and tide together produce a very fast drift. Sometimes making the fishing better, sometimes worse. A conflict of wind and tide sets up the most difficult situation. To keep the lure up, you will have to cast cross tide. "Feel" this out yourself. Find where you must cast in order to allow the lure to slowly "sweep" across the bottom.

Casting into the beach and slow retrieving the lure can be most difficult if the wind conditions are not favorable. North winds are best, (on the south shore). You go in as close as you dare and the wind will push you off.

South winds are the hardest. You will likely have to pick up the retrieve to continue fishing. It is doubtful that a south wind will blow you vertically into the beach. Winds blow southwest or southeast. Ths will give you an angle. Cast into that corner and it will help in keeping the lure "up".

Strong winds will create a belly in your line making it difficult to feel out the lure and set the hook on a hit. Try to minimize the belly. Cast a line drive over the side of your shoulder, instead of overhead and up into the air.

Upon completing your cast, as the lure hits the water, allow your lure to settle in the water. (The deeper the water the more you can let it sink.) You can even let it go to the bottom before you begin to retrieve, this works well. Then reel rapidly to get the slack out before slowing up the retrieve. Removing the slack gives you control. This will do away with remarks such as, "Oops, I think I had a bite!"

When drifting with the tide and using a slow retrieve, the lure will slowly be pushed to the bottom as it comes closer to the boat. The lure will be faced downward as it comes closer. As it reaches that point where the line begins to pull the lure up to the boat, the bucktail will change direction and swing upward. Bass fall sucker to that change of direction. So never rush the cast unless you are casting into a positive area. You will be amazed how often bass will hit under a boat. Even with the engine running.

Best depth of water for drifting is 5 to 20 feet. Unlike anchoring though, it is easier to take fish in deep water drifting. Just tie on heavier heads and/or allow the lure to settle more. In very low water it will be difficult to maintain a slow retrieve. Try the fast snap and the hesitation. If your tackle is light enough to throw a ¼ ounce lure, try that.

Slow retrieve will also allow you to pull bass out from under a school of bluefish. Bluefish prefer the fast retrieve. Reel slowly keeping the lure deep. This will minimize the chances of a bluefish biting and still entice a bass.

I have done this on many occasions. In fact, I can now tell what is biting and let the bluefish go by until I feel a bass hit. Bass hit mostly like a punch. Bluefish tear away at the lure, not like the clean bite of a bass. The bass swallows whole, while the bluefish tears his prey into chunks.

If you want your bucktails to last

(Continued on page 19.)

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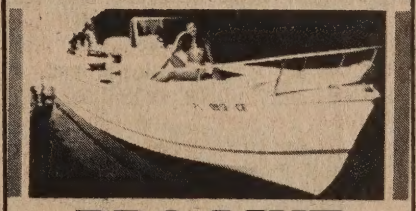

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PECONIC BAY FLOUNDER

Part III— East Side of Shelter Island & Gardiner's Bay

by Dr. William A. Muller

The game is the same even in these extreme east-end waters but the spots are different. Essential items remain the same: mussels, chum pots and hard work.

There are several excellent locations that are available even to rental skiff customers. The waters around Shelter Island can be reached from the North Fork (Port of Egypt) or south shore (Noyac Marina, Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station.)

East Side of Shelter Island:
Coecles Harbor:

This harbor is frequently overlooked by many anglers, but the muddy bottom yields large catches of big fish. Four spots come to mind. The first is located immediately inside the southern tip of Ram Island. Anchor about 500-800 feet due west of the sand spit. The water is fairly deep (20 feet) and there is a substantial current that spreads out from the narrow inlet on the incoming tide. You should anchor at the fringe of the turbulence.

All of the locations inside the harbor produce more fish during the incoming tide then during the ebb tide. Try to time your fishing for the last three hours of incoming water.

If the fishing is poor at the inlet move further to the west where another point of land juts out into the harbor from the north side. There is a white garage almost at the tip of the point. There is a large oak tree between the white building and the water south of the last dock. Line the tree up with the window on the building and set the anchor about 100 feet off the beach so that the boat comes to rest south and southeast of the end of the dock. There is a trough here that is about 25 feet deep and runs southwest-northeast.

Fish here until the fish stop coming regularly and then move to the old lighthouse south-southwest of the point of land where you have been fishing. Most anglers like to drift in the vicinity of this pile of sand and rocks. When they hit fish they "set the hook" and chum with either fresh crushed mussels or frozen blocks of ground clams in chum pots.

If the fishing fails here go toward the head of the harbor and you will see a school on the western shore. Anchor towards the middle of the harbor off the school. The water is about 10 feet deep. Be warned that the fish are much smaller here but frequently there are many more fish. The average size of the flounder at the head of the harbor will be one-half to three-quarters of a pound.

Northwest Creek to Three Mile Harbor:

There is a black buoy off Cedar Point County Park that marks the boundary between shallower water and the muddy channel to the north. The bottom is irregular with many troughs and depressions. Any of the mud covered holes can produce good flounder fishing. Some fishermen head into Northwest Creek for the flatties. The fish are very abundant in this creek but the average size of the fish is smaller and the fishing is restricted to the cuts and channels. Much of the Northwest Creek is sandy flat bottom covered with only 3-6 feet of water.

Three Mile Harbor is approximately 2½ miles east of Cedar Point County Park. The flounder fishing is excellent throughout the harbor but the bigger fish are at the entrance which is bounded by jetties on both sides. Fish the inside tip of the east jetty on the incoming tide and the tip of the west jetty during the outgoing stage of the tide.

Some anglers also like to fish in the channel beyond the inlet but the fishing is not as productive there as it is along the jetties.

Long Beach State Park:

There are several good spots in these north shore waters. Northwest of Long Beach Point about 500 feet off the beach are a series of depressions that hold flounder up to three pounds.

When the fish are spread out it is wise to drift in the area of the Old Lighthouse if the winds are light. Drifting will increase the ground covered and therefore improve your chances of success.

On the southeast side of the State Park is another productive area. Half-way down the beach is a building and there is a flagpole to the side of the building. About 100-200 feet off the beach a cone shape depression angles toward the beach from the south and ends in the vicinity of the brick building.

The trough is about 20 feet deep and you should anchor your boat off th flagpole and chum heavily. These fis are often very big but not as numerou as they are in the spots to the west. B patient and re-new the chum pc frequently.

Gardiner's Bay:

Good catches are made in the vicinit of buoy 8 east of Acabonack Harbc although drifting is usually mor productive because the fish are sprea out over more acres of bottom.

The east side of Cartwright Island i favored by many anglers. Begin fishin at the southern end and work your wa up to the northern end of the island a the tidal current builds. Chum pots ar essential for success.

Tobaccolot Bay is famous for its lat spring snowshoe flounder, although th run of the last few years has not been u to the quality of past years.

A little more than a mile north of th southern tip of Gardiner's Island is point of land that can be easily identifie by a rock pile on the land. Most angler fish about 500 yards off the rock pil where the water is between 20 and 3 feet deep. There are many fish in thes waters but frequent freshening of th chum pot is essential for success in th swift current.

In addition, other areas scattered i Tobaccolot Bay can be productive a times.

Napeaque Harbor:

Promised Land Fishing Station i located in this harbor and the Gardiner' Bay area is accessible from this livery However, do not overlook the harbor especially if high winds or dirty water i the bay promise poor fishing.

Good sized fish are available off th western shore. There is a cut-face san dune where the harbor begins to narrov near the inlet. These fish may weigh u to two pounds but average about on pound. The size of catch, however, ca be very large.

Well, that about covers the east-en flounder fishing spots. I hope th information helps to put a lot of thic fillets on your table. The telephon numbers of the boat rental stations ar available in part II of this series. Do no hesitate to call these local fishermen fo the best up to the minute fishin forecasts in their areas.

ART OF BUCKTAILING
(Continued from page 17.)

longer when catching bluefish, slip a tail hook over the lure hook. Most times when boated the bluefish will be hanging on the tail hook staying clear of the line and bucktail hairs. Never use wire leaders, you save lures but get less bites.

Setting the drag. As a habit I always keep my drag short of the breaking point. I don't give them an inch. Fishing a light drag never appealed to me. Not simply because I am a meat fisherman. You can enjoy the fight of a fish with a socked up drag as well as a loose one. Using a loose drag to "Enjoy the fight" is not my style.

Offshore fishermen have always been able to prove their angling skill by whipping the fish back as quickly as possible. That's why they time the battle.

Fight enjoyers are mostly a pain in the backside. Watching someone spend 5 minutes landing a small bass, while the rest of the party has a cup of coffee annoys me. Most times you will be drifting out of the fish while the long battle continues.

Bass don't bite forever. When they "take hold" you had better pull hard. Like I always say, "Give me one good hour."

Tight drags are better for setting the hook. Which brings about the knack of setting a hook. Remember, the bigger the bass, the more bone in his mouth. When you feel the hit swing hard and fast. Most guys are guilty of swinging too lightly. Spin fishermen are notorious for this.

Long casts, and light rod tips require a good swing to set that hook. Windy days put big bellies in the line and drive you bananas. It seems you cannot swing hard enough to eliminate the slack and reach the hook.

Sometimes the fish bite funny and make it difficult to hook them. But if the bass are cooperating and you are doing the right thing, you should not miss any more than 1 hit out of 20. That is a rough estimate of course, that relates to the prevailing conditions.

You will begin to find that setting the hook is a fast reflex that will amaze you. Instinctively you will swing at the slightest tap on the end of your line.

The bigger the fish does not mean the bigger the bite. Hell no! Big fish can give the slightest tap. Striped bass have a habit of coming up behind a slow moving lure and softly inhaling it.

You can tell how a bass is hitting by where the hook is in his mouth. If the hook is laying in the crack of his mouth, the fish is going to the side when taking the lure. When hitting in this manner the bass are easiest to hook. A tight line here is good enough to set the hook. Swing hard anyway, it can't hurt.

When the hook is in the top of his mouth, that indicates the bass came from behind, and simply clamped down. Remember the fish can spit it out as fast as he swallowed it. So swing fast!

To sum up the previous paragraphs, I would like to emphasize what is most important to the bucktail fishermen. What separates the sharpies from the tourists. Know what depth the lure is swimming at. This is far more difficult than it sounds. The fisherman's skills are really put to the test here. That is why most anglers fish the plug and not the bucktail. To achieve this you must get the "feel". My advice is leave all the other lures at home and fish the bucktail only. If you have what it takes you will eventually find the magic, that certain feel. The extra sense that must be developed via practice and exploration. When mastered you will be able to perform...Perform the art of bucktail fishing.

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BREEZY POINT:

Communique from the Western Front

by Ed Haring

This magazine was the first to discover that there were fishermen on the sunset side of the Island. Since then we have done much to keep the readers in the area up to date on where they could pursue their sport closer to home. The formation of the Gateway National Recreation Area was the first significant break for anglers who for years saw fishing all but exterminated by other interests. Even if in only a small way, we like to think that our efforts were instrumental in the opening of a large portion of the Breezy Point Unit to surf casters on a 24 hour basis for the first time in generations. The cooperations we received from the entire staff at the Unit was most gratifying. All announcements, regulations, etc., were passed on to our readers thus minimizing misunderstandings between the fishermen and Park personnel. It proved to be an equitable arrangement for both groups seemed well pleased in the democratic manner in which the few problems were worked out.

A good example of this concerns the use of four wheel drives at the far western end. A meeting between the parties at interest—fishermen, residents of the nearby communities and representatives of the Park's management produced a formula that proved mutually agreeable. The operators of the vehicles, well aware that this was a step in the right direction, adhered to rules so the program would be continued.

On March 16th, I attended a conference at the invitation of Breezy Point Unit Manager Bill Shields which included plans for the development of the entire Recreational Area, and a tour of Floyd Bennett Field and Breezy Point. Believe me when I say the proposals and alternatives are staggering. It would be safe to say that of the three proposals under consideration a composite will emerge and become the master plan.

After pouring through the substantial material given to each participant it appears as though fishing is here to stay. Areas may be modified somewhat for surfcasting but there just might be some expansion of pier and bayside fishing. There is a strong emphasis on eliminating pollution in the waters of Jamaica Bay, just about all of which are in the area. This should be good news for the small boat fisherman, for once this bay was famous for its excellent runs of all local species. Another proposal is to convert the old seaplane ramp at Floyd Bennett Field into a launching ramp. Before you get too excited about that—The Navy and Coast Guard still maintain jurisdiction over waterfront on most if not all of Barren Island—only after they cede it to the Park can any definitive action be taken.

The tour of Floyd Bennett Field brought back memories of the days before Barren Island became an airfield. Casting with a codfish rod and a single action knuckle buster produced some great catches of fluke, flounder and weaks. Perhaps in the future we may see piers like those at Jones Beach jutting out from the shore.

The need for the Coast Guard with its rescue aircraft is a definite must. The Navy? Your guess is as good as mine...not even a rowboat was visible.

You surf casters who suffered from the onslaughts of those voracious mosquitoes will be glad to learn that each proposal provides for their elimination as well as ticks.

We will lose some of the beach area at Fort Tilden, immediately adjacent to Riis Park. This area is very shallow and was fished only lightly. When you consider that it will only be used by bathers from May to October between 8 A.M. and 8 P.M. the loss does not appear to be significant.

It would be well to point out that fishing is permitted currently in each of the four units of the Recreation Area. As many have learned, traffic can be a problem in reaching any unit. Solutions are being studied but for the time being it would be well to arrange for your fishing expeditions to be during off-peak hours, especially during the bathing season.

Rome was not built in a day, nor will Gateway. With money being tight, Congress will evaluate each project carefully before approving the appropriations. It could well be 15 or more years before the project is completed but each year from now on will show marked changes for the better.

Any fisherman who had occasion to visit the Breezy Point Unit will all agree on the courteous service they received from all members of the staff...they are real pros. It would not be fair to conclude without a special tip of the hat to Mr. Shield's able assistants Gentry Davis and Walter Tagge.

Flounder Alley

by Herb Buch

Long Island probably produces more flounder than it does any other fish of equivalent size and desirability. What is more important is it makes for more happy fishermen than any other species. Everyone can and does catch some flounders. Age is no barrier to success, any tackle will do, and you can fish just about anywhere. Knowledge, good tackle, and technique will improve your score, but the charm of flounder fishing is the fact that everyone catches some fish. They are easy to clean and taste good any way you prepare them.

With those things in mind it is fortunate that we have very accessible to our largest population centers, a very productive fishing area which is available to the public at comparatively small expense. I am referring to the area I call Flounder Alley. There are many boat rental stations here and all have outboard motors, bait and information available. In addition, several can supply you with fresh sandwiches, snacks and drinks.

You enter this area by heading east on Merrick Road from the Wantagh Parkway. In a short while (about a mile) you turn right at the Police Station and go south until you come to the Fire House. Turn right again and in a few blocks you reach Ocean Avenue. Turn left and look for a fishng station that appeals to you. Pop's, Dell's, and the Naomi Inn are right there, while Mike's and Captain Eddie's are not too far from this strip. Look for the phone numbers in the Long Island Fisherman advertisements and call in advance for information, and definitely make a reservation. On a spring weekend it is not unusual for every boat to be reserved.

This area is called Seaford Harbor and the charts that cover it are part of a booklet called 120 S.C. If you intend to do much boat fishing on the south shore it is worth buying the set. Some of the fishing stations will give you a copy of the section that you need for fishing locally. The whole set covers almost all the south shore bays of Long Island, with the exception of Jamaica Bay.

When you leave the fishing station, you will enter either Seaman's Creek or Island Creek. You could stop here and catch some fish, but always take the advice you receive at the station as to the places that are currently producing fish. Late last fall we could hardly get a bite east of the Wantagh causeway, but did very well to the west, for a period of several weeks. Fish migrations, or activity are unpredictable, so current information is your best guide.

One of the greatest advantages of fishing this area is that the bay is cut up by many islands and marshes. These cut the wind and allow you to fish on days that would be impossible in the open water of Great South Bay. The first island you will see is Great Island. The Wantagh highway runs right down the center of it, and during the spring it is usually surrounded by fishermen. The island runs north and south, and there is a long channel on each side of it. At the southern end of the island there is an east west channel, crossed by the second Wantagh bridge. Followed to the east, this channel leads to Squaw Island which is also famous flounder country.

You don't have to take any long boat rides though because there are enough flounders around Great Island to satisfy most fishermen. Along with the flounders you will find many fishermen. The channels are often solidly lined with boats of all sizes and shapes.

Although we catch flounders all around the island, we have found certain areas more consistently productive than others. On the west side we like the area near the southerly end of the island. On the east side, the four corners area can be excellent.

If fish are biting all over, choose an area that is sheltered from the wind and anchor on the side of the channel next to the island. Test the bottom depth by sounding with a sinker on your line until you locate the drop off from shallow to deep. Set your anchor on the shallow area and drift back until you are just over the edge of the channel, in the deeper water. Now, if you have another anchor, wet it out to one side so that you will be kept in position by two anchors.

For best action you should chum, and to chum properly, you should have a pot. You want to bring the fish right under the boat. We use canned cat food and canned corn. When we drop the pot, we bounced it a few times to release some food into the current. This is done periodically all day. Bloodworms are the standard bait here, and now you can start fishing. Bounce your bait periodically and gently to feel for the bait stealers. You should have some action within a half hour. If not you should try another spot.

Generally speaking there will be action here during most tides, and all through the spring. The flounders run to all sizes. Release the small ones carefully and keep those that you want.

A fresh water spinning rod is usually adequate here and will really give you some fun when the flounders dive for the bottom. One ounce of lead will hold if your line is thin (six or eight pound test), heavier line will require a two or three ounce lead.

Keep your boat at the edge of the channel as traffic is heavy here. Do not tie up to the channel marker poles even though it is convenient, as it is illegal. You won't be lonely here, especially if you catch a few fish. It may be crowded, but everyone has a good time, and it is unusual not to catch some flounders.

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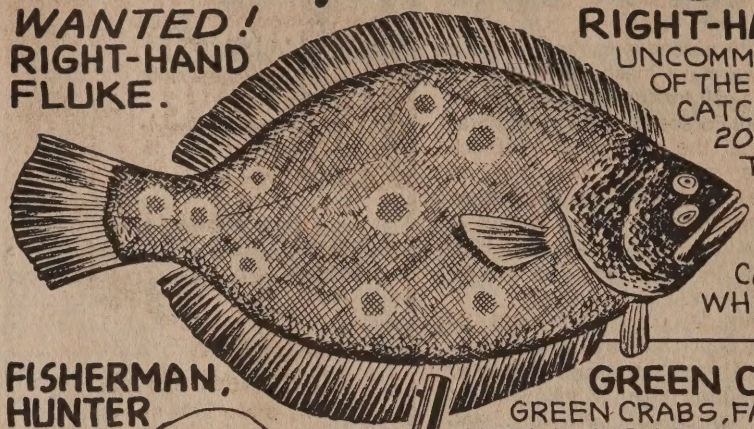
FLUKE, CRABS & CLAMS

BY FRED GUARDINEER



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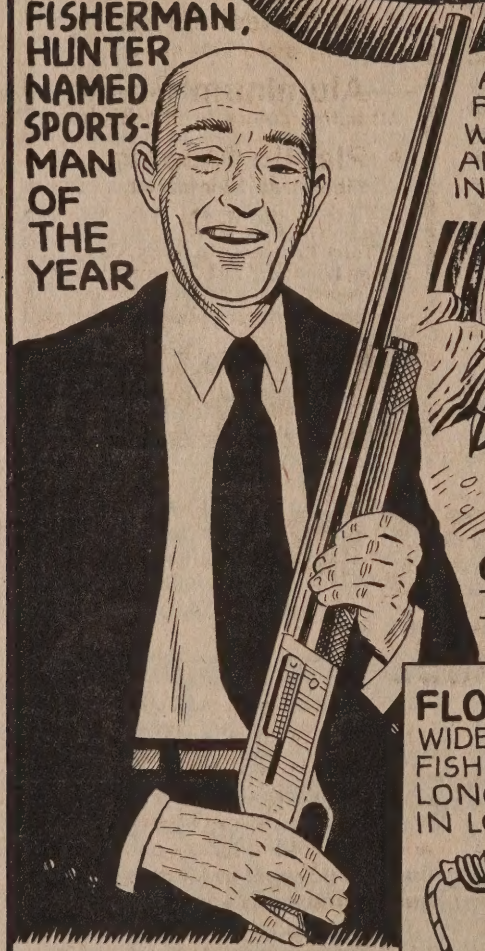
FISHERMAN, HUNTER NAMED SPORTS-MAN OF THE YEAR



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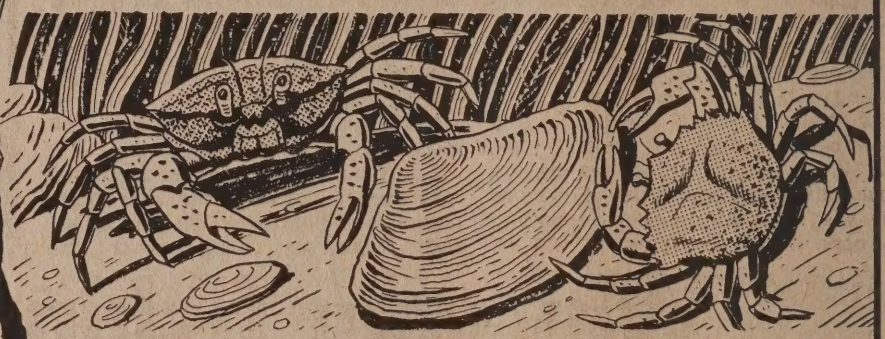

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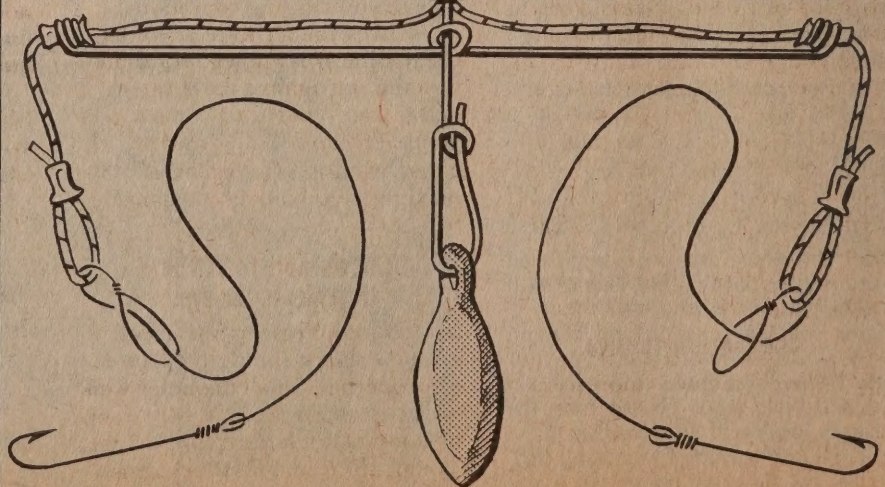

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

All reports out of Montauk Point point the start of an excellent run of spring codfishing off Block Island. Large bulldog blackfish up to 12 pounds are becoming more abundant and one of the best showings of pollack in years gives the promise of a good srping run of pollack for the charterboats to cash in on.

Capt. Brad Glas of the **Helen II** reported very, very good fishing on both Saturday and Sunday southeast of Block Island. On Saturday, John Keenan of Manhattan took the pool with a 43 pound codfish. On Sunday there was a bonus to the good cod action when big pollack started slamming the clam baits. Large blackfish up to 12 pounds are also mixed in the catches daily. Brad told us that the fishing out Montauk way has been a slow, steady build-up day by day, so these catches aren't just flashes in the pan. All aboard have been leaving the boat with hefty bags of fish. For those who wish to beat the weekend crowding on open boats, the **Helen II** will be running special "20/20" trips on Saturdays and Sundays during the month of May. Trips will be strictly limited to 20 passengers, fare is $20 a head and you must make a reservation. Give Brad a call for further information.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the Viking Star reported that the codfishing off Block Island was su super-great that on Sunday the loaded down boat had to slow down on the way back to port. James J. Krul of New Jersey copped the pool with a 60 lb. cod. A few blacks and pollack were also mixed in with the catch.

"Dynamite day on Sunday" was the word from Capt. Richard Rade of the **Marlin III**. Thirty men hauled over 450 cod ranging from 12 to 18 pounds over the rails. Four fish went between 40 and 47 pounds, including the one boated by Steve Weiss. All anglers left the boat with one, two or more bags heavily laden with fish. The Captain said that the fish were all green and active, definite evidence that these are new fish moving into the area to start the spring off with a bang. The water is loaded with schools of sandeels, and the stomachs of the cod are full of them. Pollack and blackfish are also in strong in the hot area southeast of Block Island.

Captain Brad Glas called to say that in response to requests for uncrowded party boat fishing he will be running the **Helen II** on a reservation basis only for

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Al Ekberg, John Adams and Bob McGuinness of the N.Y.P.D.'s 20th precinct with their catch of 85 flounder taken north of bouy 42 using bloodworms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station

around 1-1¼ pound with a low of ¾ and a high of 1¾.

EAST ISLIP

Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle informs us that the East Islip Beach area and buoy 4 Hecscher area are producing good catches, weather permitting of flounder on worm and mussels, all tides.

OAKBEACH

Hays at **The Store** laments the typhoon season and tells us that only 3 to 5 flounder per man were taken north of **The Store** over the weekend. The Cross Roads area seems to be producing well, though the wind has been brutal. Try the Sore Thumb vicinity with bloodworms, for boats and shore fishermen.

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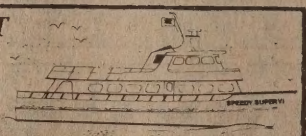

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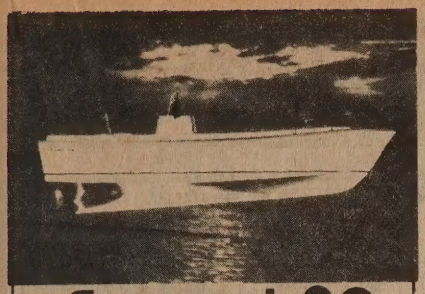

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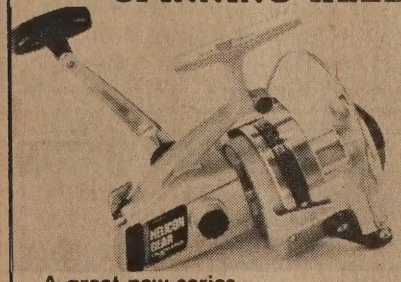

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Lemp's Rod & Gun, Glen Cove

Pedro Ortega and Jose Pesez show off the 60 lb. cod and the 47 lb. hake they caught aboard the "Peconic Queen III"

May weekends. Brad said that his 49 passenger capacity vessel will be limited to 20 men, with a $20 fare, which includes bait and tackle and of course he will be sailing at 6 A.M. from Salivar's Dock.

Ronnie at **Gone Fishing Marina** called to say that there is very good flounder fishing in Lake Montauk. Saturday was windy but lots of fish were caught, nevertheless averaging 1 pound with plenty of fish over a pound, taken on worms and mussel chum. Sunday was cloudy and the fishing a bit slower, but Ronnie says the fishing is better this year than last year at this time.

PROMISED LAND

Promised Land Fishing Station reports the flounder fishing is pretty good despite the blowy weather. The Harbor is producing up to 50 flounder per boat, fish running from ¾ to 2 pounds inside Napeague Harbor. Outside it's in the 30's per boat, flatties up to 3 pounds.

SAG HARBOR

Helen Jacobsen of the **Noyac Marina** said the flounders are in and they are big. Bill Fales and party of Bellerose fished east of Jessups Neck and caught nearly a dozen of 1½ to 2 pounds. The wind drove them in early. The **Noyac Marina** is now open all week.

HAMPTON BAYS

Frank's Fishing Station said that despite the poor weekend weather the fishing was great and buoys 17 to 10 were the spots. Any moving tide should be fished with blooworms and mussels as bait for best results.

Quite a few flounders were taken from Heady Creek, the Reservior and the Coast Guard Station according to **Bradley's Fishing Station**. Bruch said their boats have been averaging 30 fish from ¾ to 1½ pounds. Mussel chumming on the incoming tide with bloodworms and clams as bait are best.

Capt. Clark Bellows Sr. of the **Captain Clark** boats said that Saturday's fishing was good despite the winds, and Sunday was very good with some anglers taking 25 or more flounder ranging from a pound to over two. These are those big Peconic Bay flounder Doc Muller is always writing about. The Capt. Clark has been fishing in Flanders Bay off Jamesport at the western end of Peconid Bay. Clark told us that the best bait is easily mussel, which takes about 80 percent of the fish, but it is hard to convince some anglers to switch over from worms. The last of the flood tide has been best, but there is constant action all day. The Capt. Clark II has only a few open dates left this month for large group charters.

Dom Sgro, Henry Donde and George Horton of the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County club with the 95 flounder they caught north of bouy 42 on bloodworms and mussels. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Marina.

MORICHES BAY

Good flounder fishing all over reports **Moriches Bait and Tackle**. In Forge River opposite the Old Neck Marina is one of the better spots. The incoming tide is best fished with either blood or sandworms with the sand worm being better. Flounder are from ½ to 2 pounds.

Jack at **Cerullo Bros.** reports they had boats averaging 1 dozen flounder over the windy weekend. Those who stuck it out had 3 or 4 dozen. Chumming is a must as well as fishing on a moving tide. Worms on an outgoing tide is the best. Flounder, according to Jack have been

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Jeff Grinett and his partner Dave both had a terrific day aboard the "Triton II along with with Capt. Vigilant's son Michael who caught the pool fish for the day, a 28 lb. cod.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reports the buoy 28 Heckscher area and all along the shoreline with sandy bottom has been great. All the fish are good size, with bloodworm an dyed skimmer doing the job on all tides, boat average is 80 flounder.

Young's Fishing Station tells us that the buoy 29 and 30 area off Heckscher is producing good flounder catches, weather permitting on bloodworm, red dyed clam and mussel chum.

The charterboat **Friendship** reported excellent flounder fishing on Sunday with 6 dozen good sized flounder for four men, mostly taken east of Watch Hill Channel off Patchogue. Bait was bloodworms and red dyed clam. John Geddi had 120 flounder off Fire Island Pines.

CAPTREE

Captain Bob Joseph of the **Capt. Joseph Fleet** told us that it was a very good week for large flounder of 1 to 2¼ pounds off Heckscher State Park and points east. Bob noted that these big flatties won't hang around too long and will begin moving out as soon as the water starts to warm up. The last of the flood tide has been most productive.

Fishing on windy Saturday was tough, according to reports from the Capt. **Richie** but picked up considerably on Sunday off Heckscher State Park. Big, thick flounder ranging from ¾ to 1½⅓ pounds were the rule on Sunday when catches ranged from 3 to 12 fish per man. Again, incoming water provided the most action.

Captain Neil of the **Lady Ann** tells us that the flounder action is okay when the wind is not howling, and that the wind causes the flounder fishing to fall off. Friday the average was 10 to 12 flounder per man, with high hook 20 fish. Saturday fishing was on the poor side due to the wind, with 60 fish boated for the day. Sunday 250 flounder were taken, a little better.

The charterboat **Yankee** averaged 10 flounder per man on Wednesday, withj 15 fish high hook. Saturday's wind caused the decrease in the catch, but Sunday fishing was fair with 8 to 10 fish per man average, with 16 flatties hi-hook. Captain Bob says that these fish are excellent size and really fat. Bob says Heckscher and the flats are providing good sources of food for these fish.

BABYLON

Charlie's Fishing Station reports 50 to 60 flounder per boat on Sunday on bloodworms. Best areas are out in front off Bergen Point and off the seaplane base, fish up to a pound on the flood.

Babylon Fishing Station reports the sea plane hanger, Dickerson's and Snake --

Rick, Stanley and Greg Czyzyk of Manhasset caught these flounder on bloodworms and red skimmers south of bouy 30. The flounders weighed between ¾ to 2 lbs. Photo courtesy of South Bay Fishing Station.

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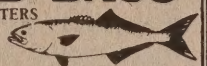

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65' Open Boat • Complete Electronics
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Gr. Kills, Staten Is.
6 Pass. Charter Boat

Hill Channel, the buoy 5 area are all producing on worms and mussel chum. These are all good sized averaging 1 pound. Angler Joe Schaefer on the "Trio", took 150 flounder over the weekend in these areas.

Bergen Point Fishing Station informs us that Sunday flounder fishing was good averaging 12 flounder per man off Bergen Point and in the flats off the point. Joe has heard reports of weakfish up to 2½ pounds and tells us that bunker has been in his canal for awhile now.

Augie's Bait and Tackle reports 120 flounder from 1 to 1½ pounds taken on Sunday in Snake Hill Channel by Gabby Ciuffo, son Gary and Joe Monte. This was on worms and mussel baits with mussel chum on the flood. Art Orlandi and 3 passengers hung 122 flounder up to 1½ pounds in the West Island area on Sunday on the flood.

LINDENHURST

Charlies Bait and Tackle reports good flounder fishing off the Town Beach on bloodworms and mussel chum, ¾ of a pound average. The Babylon cut at Frank and Dick's is producing well to the tune of 70 to 80 fish per successful boat. Jack also suggests fishing off the Sore Thumb for flounder. This would be worm, clam, for boaters and shore fishermen. More rumors of weakfish.

Captain Bob Fischer of the **Lazy Day II** out of Lindenhurst, called to report that Saturday's fishing was not the best, due to the high winds. He fished off Heckscher with the pool fish 1½ pounds. Bob informed us that the **Lazy Day II** will now be booking charters for the '76 season. (Watch next week's ad) and will be sailing open Monday's and Friday's at 8 A.M.

Bullet skipper Jay Porter is now on nis way to Florida to bring the new boat up, probably within the next few weeks. Jay said that they are putting the finishing touches on the **Bullet** now. For those interested in big cod pollack and those ever loving tile fish, the **Bullet** will be leaving the dock at 2 A.M. and returning 6 P.M. the same day. Jay will also, he says, be making extra special trips off Massachusetts, so keep watching these pages.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reports the flounder fishing pretty good in spite of the never ending winds. Fort Neck Point at the southwest corner, Little Goose Island lead, and West Island north through Windy Hook and the Amityville Cut at the State Channel, in addition to West Island are producing ¾ to 1½ pound flounder for the persistent flounder freak. Ebb tide is best, as are mussel baits. Mussel chumming is a must.

SEAFORD

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station reports plenty of wind, but none the less, his boats are getting good catches, with the most fish taken when the wind eases up. Best areas are along the Massapequa shoreline, off Massapequa Cove and Fort Neck Point on worms and mussel chum.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports good flounder action Monday through Friday with Saturday and Sunday being pretty much of a blowout. Hot spots on non-hurricane days are 20 feet north of the channel marker off Nick's last Texaco sign, Broad Creek and Swift Creek.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The **Aloma II** has been having pretty good flounder fishing said Capt. Paul's mother. She answered the phone because Paul and his wife were at the hospital where their new baby is trying to recover from a possible virus attack.

In the meanwhile the first **Aloma** with Capt. John Grimiley at the helm has been doing a number on the blackfish outside. Some fish run to about five pounds but mostly they are the smaller

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7 AM

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33' Egg Harbor Sportfisherman

ALL VARIETIES OF FISHING

—6 PASSENGER LIMIT—

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spring blacks of one or two pounds.

Now that all the refurbishing works is done on the **Starstream II**, Capt. Kessinger is out catching blackfish. They have done pretty good so far by using skimmers and conch to take blackfish up to 8 pounds. This past weekend Larry McCall of Hempstead Fashion Shop was high hook with 60 blacks up to 6 pounds. Some ling have also been taken as well as mackerel which have been caught every day. Capt Kessinger says the **Starstream II** will dine to these boston mackerel the first chance he gets any day now!

The **Lucky Strike III** was out flounder fishing this weekend. They fished the Freeport area and took flounders from ¾ to 1½ pounds on mixed bait of worms, clams and mussels. Saturday was a better day than Sunday even with the winds on Saturday.

The **Aloma II** skipper Capt. Paul Schmidt reports very good flounder fishing on Saturday at Swift Creek to the

CAPTREE

Three of CAPTREE's Most Spacious, Luxurious, Fastest!

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On Left Side Of Dock

7 & 8AM Daily

FLOUNDER

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6AM SAT. & SUN.

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Right Side of [illegible] by Bait Station

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FLOUNDER 7AM DAILY

Clean Boat—Left Side of Dock

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FLOUNDER 7AM

FLOUNDER 8AM

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65'—Calm, Sheltered Waters—65'

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Sails From Right Side of Dock

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FRIENDLY, FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

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CAPT. **WHITTAKER**

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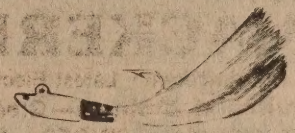

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The Long Island

FISHERMAN FISHING TRIP CONTEST

Mr. Nick Matic of Islip called into LIF a description of his car by the Friday deadline to become this week's L.I.F. Litter Box Contest Winner. Mr. Matic has been sent a check for $10 and has also chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Viking Star for his prize.

This Week's Winner:

736-BAU

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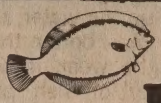
GREENPORT



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Fare $45. Dep. $20
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tune of 20 to 25 fish per man in the 1 to 1½ pound class. Sunday was a bit slower and the fish took a bit of hunting, but Seadog Creek and Long Creek finally produced well enough to save the day.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports a slow pick for his boats on Sunday, although 2 anglers from Hermans Sporting Goods bagged 30 flounder between them fishing Swift Creek. Anthony's other skiffs came back with 10 to 12 flounder per boat. Short Beach is said to be producing, as is Swift Creek and the western side of the High Flats Drain Bridge on moving water. Bloodworms and red dyed clam and chum are the ticket.

Captain Sy Karlin of the charterboat **Blue Fin** had the Ramble Inn Fishing Club of New Hyde Park out on Sunday, working Swift Creek and Squaw Island to the tune of 10 to 12 fish per man with hi-hook being 25 fish by angler Jack Slekes of New Hyde Park. The pool fish went 1¼ pounds. Sunday was a little tougher in the same areas with the pool going 1¾ pounds this time. More larger fish were taken on Sunday averaging 8 fish per man. Best was outgoing with worm baits and corn chum.

L.I.F. staffer Stu Miller was bouncing around on Sunday in his 14 ft. Starcraft with Lynbrook plumber Sammy Sam. It was a tough day's fishing and many drops were necessitated to fill the box. Bloodworms and mussels for bait and mussel chum were employed. Seadog Creek and Reynolds Channel directly north of Long Island Sea Clam in 6 feet of water produced most of the days catch which was 9 good keepers for Stu and 13 good keepers for this ace plumber, whose mind was completely blown by the good fishing. All fish were caught on outgoing tide.

POINT LOOKOUT

Over the weekend the **Marie III** had the Leadhead Fishing Club of Queens out. The morning proved tough and tso they moved around trying to locate the flounder. Finally with an outing tide and bloodworms and mussels as bait they struck pay dirt. Over 200 flounder were finally taken in all. The President of the fishing club, Frank, was the high hook of the day.

Ed's Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing over the weekend despite the wind on Saturday and showers on Sunday. As usual those who stuck it out came in with the bigger fish and larger catches. The first of the outgoing tide and into the middle of it was the best time. North Channel, Cinder Creek and the flats at Middle Bay continue to yield good catches of flounder. The ¾ lb. average flounder is partial to worms mostly and mussel chumming is a must.

ISLAND PARK

Capt. Clem of the **Commodore** said they had a tough weekend. A combination of strong winds along with high tides combined to ride up the water and make it dirty. Sunday was better than Saturday, but during the week it was best. There are plenty of fish and chumming is a must with the outgoing tide being the favored time. This coming week the tides will be at their most advantageous. The **Commodore** is sailing every day except Monday.

[redacted]

Tom at **Long Beach Sports Marina** says he is still impressed with the size of the flounder. Although he did not weigh any catches over the weekend, he said they looked like small fluke. No, they were not throwback fluke. They did not have teeth. The Woodsburgh Channel is still the hot spot but go see Tom for the exact location. Charlie Kaupowskie of Maspeth and Billy Boyce of Far Rockaway took over 30 flounder up to 1 pound and better using tape worms, bloodworms and chumming. They fished the channel on the outgoing tide.

Bill of **Noehren's Bait and Tackle** went out on Saturday aboard the Matty which docks in back of his ship. They went to the Silver Hole and took 24 flounders up to 1½ pounds. They used bloodworms and no chum. Bill said the North Channel bridge is a lively place to fish for flounders.

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COD • POLLACK
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6 Pass.—Radar—Sonar—Loran
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Home of Capt. Frank Mundus' "CRICKET II"
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2. FINDING THE EXACT LOCATION OF ALL THE BEST WRECKS (NOT JUST THE EASY ANDREA DORIA) IS A VALUABLE ART AND A PRECISE SKILL REQUIRING THE USE OF SONAR EQUIPMENT, WHICH OUR COMPETITION DOES NOT HAVE.
3. SINCE OUR COMPETITION HAS CHOSEN TO SCHEDULE THEIR "WRECK" TRIP ON THE SAME DAY AS OURS, BUT LEAVING JUST AFTER WE DO, WE HAVE DECIDED TO POSTPONE OUR SCHEDULED MAY 2ND TRIP FOR ONE DAY, AND WILL BE

SAILING MONDAY NIGHT, MAY 3RD AT 9 P.M.

4. WE WISH OUR COMPETITION ALL THE LUCK THEY'LL NEED IN FINDING THESE WRECKS OTHER THAN THE ANDREA DORIA.

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SPECIAL REDUCED RATES *in*
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VIKING FISHING FLEET

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NANTUCKET WRECK TRIP for GIANT COD & POLLACK

~~LEAVING MAY 2, 9PM~~
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Next Trip 5-23, 9PM
Ret. 5-24, 9PM (Going Fast!)
Fare $45 • Dep. $20 • 50 Pass. Limit
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5AM EVERY DAY

GIANT COD POLLACK BLACKS

NEWEST • BIGGEST • FASTEST • SAFEST • BEST EQUIPPED ALL WEATHER BOAT, CUSTOM BUILT FOR FISHING COMFORT FROM BOW TO STERN! (NO WHIPLASH)

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MORE FISHING TIME—LESS RIDING TIME! ***Special Group Rates***

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CAPT. WHITEY BATEMAN
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SPECIAL ALL DAY RATES
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EASY RIDER
Inshore & Offshore SPORTFISHING
NOW Booking for 1976 Season
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CAPT. JOHN SEKORA TROLLING RIGS
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Montauk Fishing at its Finest!

6 Pass. Limit • Full Days Only
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WINTER BOTTOM CHARTERS
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105' ★ 25 M.P.H. ★ 2000 H.P.
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One-half the Riding Time,
Double the Fishing Time!!!
Heated Rails • Bunks • Restaurant
Special Rates for Groups

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Apr. 4th trip all booked up!
NEXT TRIP—Sun. May 2nd 10PM,
Return Monday Approx. 10PM
Fare $50, Reservations a MUST!
Call for further info!

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POLLACK • SNOWSHOES
6AM WEEKDAYS • 5AM SAT. & SUN.

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Drift Fishing for the BIG ONES
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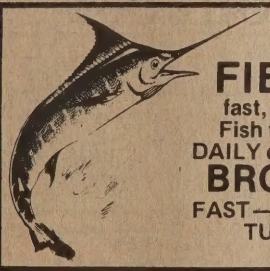

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STATEN ISLAND

Strong flounder action is continuing at Great Kills Park according to **Santo's Sport Shop**. A good number of great catches of 20 to 30 flounder have been made and although there are a lot of small fish there are plenty of decent size ones. The beach side, Glover Street and Armstrong Avenue are all starting to show flounder. the worm floater along with the flounder are picking up small striped bass at Glover Street and the beach at Great Kills. An unconfirmed but reliable source told Lenny of a 10 pound bass taken by a worm floater. At Bogus an angler took a 9 and 10 lb. bass on a popping plug retrieved very slowly. There are plenty of herring to be taken at night in Great Kills Harbor.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Reports of mackerel catches may tempt Capt. Larry Krim of the **Eagle** to try for them this Saturday. If the catches continue at the rate they have been it should be an exciting fishing trip.

The **Helen H** reports good whiting catches are continuing. The other news Capt. Huck reports are the mackerel catches at Manasquan and Barnegat. If the catches there remain good the **Helen H** will sail for them any day.

Joe of the **Blue Sea II** said the winds on Saturday brought the whiting catch down. On Sunday the average was right back up to 20-30 whiting with ling mixed in.

Captain Kevin of the **Dorothy B** has been fishing Jamaica Bay for flounder. On Friday, a regular customer known as Nat was high hook with 40 flounder. Saturday saw a downwards move in flounder fishing caused by strong winds. Sunday saw the catches come right back up. There are a few throwbacks said Captain Kevin, and the ¾ to 2 pund flounder are being taken on all baits. They have been using red dyed clams, worms or mussels as bait.

The **Pilot II** has been flounder fishing, and doing well at it, while waiting for the proper time to try for the blackfish. It seems that the time has come and Capt. Tom will take the Pilot II out this Wednesday for blackfish.

Captain Larry of the **Eagle** called to ask us to announce that he will be running afternoon trips starting this Saturday, leaving at 4:30 P.M., in addition to the morning trips. Fare will be $8 for the P.M. trip and Larry said to wait on the pier if the boat is not there exactly at 4:30. On Saturday Larry was wreck fishing and took cod, whiting, ling, blacks, sea bass, two pollack, and a few sea robins.

Captain Atie Lino of the **Waho IV** called to say that is now fully retired from his full time job and is chartering

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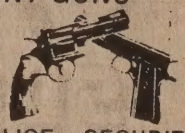

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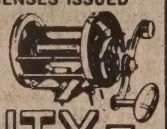

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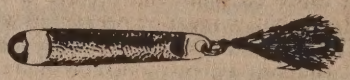

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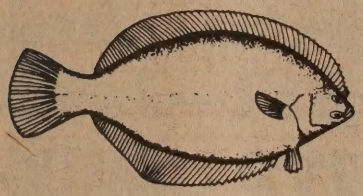
Stella Maris reports good catches of whiting. The wrecks offshore are starting to produce blackfish and flounder action in the bays remains as good as can be expected. The **Ranger** took a load of mackerel off Manasquan so it looks as though the run may start at anytime.



NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Capt. Jensen of the **Wilhelric** sailed on Friday with his friends and on Saturday as open boat. On both days it was excellent fishing. The flounder were mostly 1 to 1½ pounds with some to 2 pounds. The Oyster Factory in Greenport and Cedar Beach near Jessup's Neck were both good spots. The flounder were caught mostly on mussels with a few skimmers.

A.P. White Bait and Tackle said the flounder fishing has been good from the Greenport breakwater to the Windmill in E. Marion. The abandoned lighthouse and along the State Park beach has also been very good for flounders. These are all big fish of 1 to 1½ pounds.

Capt. George Porter of the Brand X said that Saturday was excellent. High hook was 38 with the pool fish going 2½ pounds. Sunday was the same. On each day they made only four stops and at each one the first one to the bottom had the first fish.

SOUTHOLD

Liza at **Port of Egypt** said over the weekend flounder fishing has busted wide open. Catches ran from a low of 10 to several of 80 and over 90 flounder. The low of 10 is nothing to be ashamed of as nothing was under 1½ pounds and many ran to 2½ pounds. Gerald and Louice Di Cesare with Joe De Runo all of the Bronx took over 80 flounder at the

The Long Island FISHERMAN

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Subscribers will also receive *The Fisherman's Package* by mail in the near future. This is a 5½ by 8½ inch booklet that will contain the tide tables for the year, discount blanks for classified advertisements, blanks for submitting a photo of you and your catch for publication in The Fisherman, and L.I.F. Funny Money. Funny Money is used by subscribers to obtain discounts when ordering books and other fishing merchandise by mail order.

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FISHING FOR FLOUNDER

by Dr. William A. Muller

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Osyter Factory on Saturday. On Sunday Joe Dee and Irv Friedman took out their marina boat and fished east of South Ferry. They had over 90 flounder. Also 1½ to 2½ pounds. All this action is using mussels for bait.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station said there was a catch of 42 flounder in Cuthogue Harbor of 1½ to 1¾ pound fish. A few of about 1 pound were taken in the creek there. The North Race yielded fewer flounder but they were bigger. Mussel chum and worms were the bait on the incoming tide.

JAMESPORT

Frank at **Jamesport Bait and Tackle** said the mouth of the Peconic River has a load of flounder from ½ to 1 pound. Fish the outgoing tide with mussels and sandworms. A few early birds have tried plugging at the river mouth for striped bass at night but so far it has been zilch—nothing.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Dick's Sporting Goods reports a few flounder have been caught in the harbor. Even less have been taken on the outside but they are bigger. Sandworms have been fished from the beach as it has been too rough for boats. No reports of striped bass as yet.

PORT JEFFERSON

Port Jefferson Sport Shop reports some flounder being taken in Setaucket Harbor and out by the inlet. A few people have tried for striped bass on worms with no results as yet.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said the flounder fishing is in full swing. Fish are 1 to 1¼ pounds average and the best bet is Duck Island. None have been taken in the Sound. Chumming helps with sandworms as bait. The striped ass catches are up between LILCO and Crab Meadow. Average size is 6 pounds with some 10 to 12 pounds. Metal lures such as Kastmaster are now starting to take a bigger share of the fish.

HUNTINGTON

The Eveready captained by Pete Novellino fished Duck Island and Lloyd Harbor on Saturday. Although the wind slowed the catches they were still respectful. Mostly mussel with worms along with heavy mussel chum produced flounder of ¾ to 1½ pounds. Sunday saw the catches come up. Walter Speight, director at the Wyndanch Youth Center took Sunday's pool with a 2¼lb. flounder.

Ronnies Bait and Tackle reports flounders are on the upswing. They are ¾ and up in Lloyd Harbor. Worms with mussel chum works well. The striped bass catches at Lilco have been good all week. Worms have worked best as have the Tri-Fin or Rebel lures. A few blacks have been taken in the outflow.

George at **Four Winds Tackle** said the flounder fishing was very good over the weekend. The fish have been averaging from ½ to 1¼ pounds with a few to 2 pounds. Lloyd Harbor, Duck Island and inside Huntington Inlet have been good spots. Mussel chum and worms are the bait. The striped bass activity at the LILCO plant has improved greatly said George. he said the bass are hitting small surface plugs in the early A.M. and the evening. Worms at night is just great.

GLEN COVE

Glen Cove Sports said the flounder fishing is very good at Morgans Creek, the Glen Cove breakwater and you can find some hot spots along the beach. All this fishing is on worms and the flounder average about 1 pound.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle said the Rodman's Neck has loads of flounder. One boat took over 40 flounder from 1 to 1¾ pounds from there on sandworms only.

The **North Star**, **New Apache** and the **Lady Luck** are alll doing well on flounder. They are fishing the Oyster Bay area according to Jack's Bait and Tackle.

TIDE TABLES

ON → / DAY		SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM
4/8	THURSDAY	1:21	2:12	3:17	4:03	4:45	5:22	5:19	5:56
4/9	FRIDAY	2:30	3:17	4:18	5:00	5:48	6:27	6:21	6:53
4/10	SATURDAY	3:39	4:22	5:20	5:53	6:56	7:34	7:20	7:49
4/11	SUNDAY	4:43	5:18	6:15	6:42	8:03	8:34	8:15	8:43
4/12	MONDAY	5:40	6:11	7:09	7:31	9:06	9:30	9:11	9:32
4/13	TUESDAY	6:32	6:59	8:00	8:20	10:02	10:23	10:01	10:21
4/14	WEDNESDAY	7:21	7:47	8:51	9:10	10:54	11:11	10:51	11:10
4/15	THURSDAY	8:11	8:35	9:42	10:01	11:45	—	11:41	11:59

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	-0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	-0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	-0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	-0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	-0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	-0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	-0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	-0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	-0 10
Execution Light	-0 06
Manhasset Bay	-0 01
Hempstead Harbor	-0 11
City Island	-0 03
Rye Beach	-0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	-0 14
Fort Pond Bay	-0 29
Montauk Inlet	-0 25
Montauk Point	-1 13

BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	-0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	-0 08
Herod Point	-0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	-0 20
Truman Beach	-0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook" — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6 hours to this figure.

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M. Minor	A.M. Major	P.M. Minor	P.M. Major
4/8	11:20	5:30	11:40	5:55
4/9		6:20	12:10	6:45
4/10	12:30	7:05	1:00	7:30
4/11	1:15	7:55	1:45	8:20
4/12	2:05	8:45	2:35	9:10
4/13	2:55	9:35	3:25	10:04
4/14	3:45	10:30	4:20	10:55
4/15	4:40	11:30	5:10	11:55

PHASES OF THE MOON

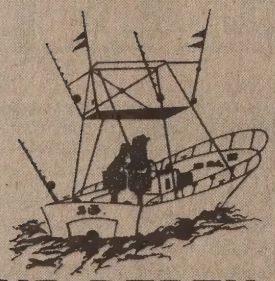
4-29	4-7	4-14	4-21
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

4/5	5:36	6:30
4/10	5:28	6:35
4/15	5:19	6:41
4/20	5:12	6:47
4/25	5:04	6:53
4/30	4:57	6:58

the tough pro

"It takes just as much effort to lose as it does to win, so why not go for the win."
Don Aronow, Miami, Florida



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